

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-13

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R 130411Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6817

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10987

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, ID, MY

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS 9/12/74; MUSLIM PROBLEM

1. DURING LONG CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 12, PRESIDENT MARCOS TOLD ME HE WAS "QUITE OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF MUSLIM PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. HE BASED HIS OPTIMISM ON ASSESSMENT THAT MALAYSIANS ARE CURRENTLY SERIOUS ABOUT SPONSORING SUCH SETTLEMENT.

2. HE SAID AL-TOHAMY VISIT, WHICH WAS ABRASIVE TO ALL CONCERNED, NEVERTHELESS SERVED USEFUL PURPOSE OF STIMULATING BOTH MALAYSIANS AND INDONESIANS TO GREATER ACTION. HE ALSO THOUGHT RAZAK'S IMPRESSIVE ELECTION VICTORY GAVE HIM NEW CONFIDENCE IN DEALING WITH TUN MUSTAPHA. HE HAD BEEN "INDIRECTLY INFORMED THROUGH MALAYSIAN INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS" THAT MUSTAPHA'S DEFENSE PORTFOLIO WAS PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO BRING HIM AND SABAH UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL.

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3. MARCOS SAID HE EXPECTED FULL REPORT BY WEEKEND FROM
INDONESIANS CONCERNING SUHARTO-RAZAK MEETING. HE THOUGHT
THIS WOULD GIVE GREEN LIGHT FOR INDONESIANS TO TRY TO PULL
TOGETHER A MUSLIM REBEL "NEGOTIATING TEAM". HE WOULD ACCEPT
WHATEVER THEY COME UP WITH. IF THEY ALL AGREE ON NUR
MISUARI AS THEIR SPOKESMAN, HE WILL DEAL WITH MISUARI,
OR ANY OTHER COMBINATION TO INCLUDE MISUARI.

4. HE ALSO SAID PHILS HAD INTELLIGENCE THAT SEVERAL MUSLIM
REBEL LEADERS WERE CURRENTLY "DRIFTING SOUTH" APPARENTLY
FOR MEETING IN SABAH. THIS SUGGESTED THEY WERE SERIOUSLY
CONFERRING ON NEGOTIATING TERMS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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